

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 01485 040926Z

10

ACTION STR-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 COME-00 EPA-01

CEQ-01 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 017433

P 040850Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7722

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 1485

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJ: GOJ INTERIM AUTO EMISSION STANDARDS

REF: STATE 22051

1. SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY. THESE OFFICIALS NOW ESTIMATE THAT OFFICIAL ACTION PROMULGATING GOJ INTERIM EMISSION STANDARDS FOR 1976 WILL TAKE PLACE WEEK OF FEB 14 AT EARLIEST, AND MOST PROBABLY CONSIDERABLY LATER-PERHAPS AS LATE AS END OF MARCH. REASON FOR DELAY IS CONTINUING DEBATE IN JAPAN CONCERNING ADEQUACY OF STANDARDS, WITH ENVIRONMENTAL, LABOR, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS, ADVOCATING STRICTER CONTROLS THAN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. HOWEVER, EA OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO PREDICT THAT INTERIM CONTROLS WILL GO INTO EFFECT AS PLANNED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO DIET INTERPELLATION, PRIME MINISTER MIKI STATED ON JANUARY 31 THAT THERE WILL BE NO RECONSIDERATION OF POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION FOR INTERIM STANDARDS. HIS RESPONSE WAS DESIGNED TO DIMINISH CONTINUING PRESSURE NOTED ABOVE FOR TIGHTER STANDARDS, AND WAS NOT DIRECTED TOWARD QUESTION OF EXEMPTION FOR IMPORTED CARS, WHICH WAS NEVER ADDRESSED BY COUNCIL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01485 040926Z

3. EA OFFICIALS STATE NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON POSSIBLE

EXCEPTION TO INTERIM STANDARDS FOR IMPORTED CARS. THEY RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITY OF ACCUSATION OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS IMPLICIT IN PROPOSED INTERIM STANDARDS, BUT GIVEN PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR EVEN TIGHTER CONTROLS, THEY ARE ALSO ACCUTELY AWARE OF PROBABLE PUBLIC REACTION TO ANY RELAXATION FOR FOREIGN CARS, DESPITE THE INSIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY SUCH VEHICLES TO TOTAL POLLUTION. EMBASSY ESTIMATE IS THAT THEY ARE MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO FIND WAY OF GRANTING SOME RELIEF FOR IMPORTED VEHICLES, IF THEY CAN RATIONALIZE THIS IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. EA OFFICIALS ADMITTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT JAPANESE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF FOREIGN CARS COULD CONTINUE TO ENTER JAPAN.

4. WHILE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO FORECAST OUTCOME, EA OFFICIALS WENT SO FAR AS TO EXPLAIN THAT RELIEF IN FORM OF DELAY IN TIME OF ENFORCEMENT OF INTERIM STANDARDS WAS MORE PROBABLE THAN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WEIGHT CLASS, AS PROPOSED BY FORD. LATTER APPROACH WOULD INVOLVE RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL, WHICH IS MOST UNLIKELY. EA OFFICIALS ALSO CONCEDED THAT DELAY GRANTED, IF ANY, COULD BE AS LONG AS ONE YEAR (I.E., UNTIL APRIL 1977) "OR LONGER." IN THIS REGARD, WE BELIEVE FORD AND PERHAPS OTHER US MANUFACTURERS MAY BE UNDER SOME MISAPPREHENSION. ENFOREMENT DATE FOR PROPOSED 1976 INTERIM STANDARDS HAS NOT BEEN SET FOR EITHER DOMESTIC OR IMPORTED CARS. SUCH DATE, FOR DOMESTIC CARS, COULD BE ANY TIME IN CALENDAR 1976. HOWEVER, AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, THERE IS NO RPT NO FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT ONE-YEAR DELAY WILL BE GRANTED FOREIGN CARS, AS FORD SEEMS TO BELIEVE.

5. EMBASSY HAD HOPED THAT BY WORKING WITH CONTACTS IN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, PROMPT AMELIORATION OF FORD'S DIFFICULTIES COULD BE ACHIEVED. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED ABOVE WE NOW BRINGING U.S. REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT TO MITI, MOT AND FONOFF.
HODGSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO001485
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750040-0178
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750272/aaaacnbc.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 22051
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOJ INTERIM AUTO EMISSION STANDARDS
TAGS: SENV, ELTN, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006